Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) is entrusted with the responsibility of selecting officers for the Board level appointments in the Public Sector Enterprises. Accordingly, to fill up the post of Director (Technical) in National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), PESB, after interview of the eligible candidates, recommended a panel of three candidates to Ministry of Steel. After the approval of ACC, the Government has recently appointed Shri V. Satyanarayana, General Manager, NMDC Ltd., who was number one in the said panel, as Director (Technical) and he has already assumed charge of the post w.e.f. 20.11.96. Some representations have been received in the Ministry against the appointment. However, the appointment has been made strictly in conformity with the stipulated procedures.

Introduction of Dual Price System under PDS

1026. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has recently been decided by the Government to introduce dual price system at PDS Outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the indices to demarcate the buyers who are proposedly to benefit from this new system; and

(d) how the system would be executed?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to restructure the Public Distribution System with focus on the poor. The matter was also discussed in the States/ UTs Food & Civil Supplies Ministers Conference on 7.8.1996 and the Conference endorsed the proposal for provision of specially subsidised foodgrains to the population below poverty line.

Streamlining the PDS on these lines is under consideration of the Government.

Use of coal as the major source of energy

1027. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the countries having some of the largest deposits of coal;

(b) whether this source of energy is not being exploited adequately to discourage the use of oil; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) India holds only 0.83% of gross and around 7% of proved world reserves of coal. All efforts are made to maximise the production of power grade coal to meet the requirements of the power sector. However, due to a variety of constraints like financial, technical, non-availability of land etc. it is not possible to meet the ever increasing demands from the power sector in the short term.

Imports of coking and non-coking coal in the country

1028. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the lop sided coal mining policy adopted by the Government, the country is increasingly becoming dependent on imported coal;

(b) the reasons for imports of coking and non-coking coal in the country;

(c) the reasons for failure to achieve coal production targets both in quantitative and qualitative terms and at times even down ward revision of the targets; and

(d) the quantities and values of imports of coking coal, non-coking coal, coke etc. during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till date)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Import of coal constitutes only a very small percentage (about 3-4%) of the total coal consumed in the country.

(b) Domestic coking coal production has not been able to keep up with the increase in demand from the steel sector. The country has limited reserves of coking coal. Prime Coking